

July 14, 2020

Dear Pharmacy Manager:

Re: 2020-2021 Seasonal Influenza Immunization Program Participation

The Drug Plan and Extended Benefits Branch (DPEBB) is registering pharmacies that plan to participate in the Province's 2020-2021 Seasonal Influenza Immunization Program (the Program). The registration list will be used for two purposes:

1. To arrange for Ministry distribution of vaccine through two Saskatchewan pharmacy wholesalers to pharmacies participating in the Program.
2. To share information on participating pharmacies with stakeholders (e.g., Saskatchewan Health Authority (SHA), Pharmacy Association of Saskatchewan (PAS) and Saskatchewan College of Pharmacy Professionals (SCPP)) to help ensure public awareness of the availability of immunization injections at pharmacies.

If there are no delays in vaccine shipping from the manufacturer, the official start date of public health clinics and pharmacy administration of influenza vaccine is October 19, 2020.

The Ministry will pay the cost of the publicly funded vaccine and its distribution when provided to eligible Saskatchewan residents under the Program.

NEW for the 2020-21 Program, pharmacies will be required to complete the ***Vaccine Provider Application Form and Vaccine Storage and Handling Checklist Form*** prior to being able to order publicly funded vaccine. The completed forms are to be returned to the DPEBB by fax or email (see contact information below). These forms are available at <http://formulary.drugplan.ehealthsask.ca/InfluenzaImmunizationProgram>

DPEBB will advise pharmacies on the status of their application within 10 days. Once a pharmacy has been approved as a Vaccine Provider, the process for ordering the vaccine, other than the high dose influenza vaccine, will remain the same as the 2019-2020 season (refer to DPEBB Pharmacy Bulletin #707, October 4, 2019). Pharmacies will only be able to order from their **primary** wholesaler.

... 2

REQUIRED INFORMATION FOR PROGRAM REGISTRATION

Pharmacies must advise DPEBB that they will participate in the Program. **If pharmacists in your pharmacy plan to participate in the Province's 2020-2021 Seasonal Influenza Immunization Program, please complete the following:**

Participating pharmacy:

- Name:
- Address:
- DPEBB pharmacy number:
- Former Regional Health Authority (RHA) where participating pharmacy is located (if known):

NEW FOR THE 2020-2021 PROGRAM: PHARMACY REGISTRATION FOR SEASONAL INFLUENZA IMMUNIZATION AT LICENSED PERSONAL CARE HOMES (PCH)

Pharmacies that are intending to provide off-site publicly funded influenza immunization at licensed Personal Care Homes **MUST** complete the required **Seasonal Influenza Immunization Registration - Licensed Personal Care Homes Form by August 14, 2020**. Residents of a licensed PCH that are 65 years and older are eligible to receive the publicly funded high dose influenza vaccine, and pharmacies **MUST** complete the registration form before receiving the vaccine inventory.

The registration form is available at:

<http://formulary.drugplan.ehealthsask.ca/InfluenzaImmunizationProgram>

The list of licensed Personal Care Homes in Saskatchewan is available at:

<http://personalcarehomes.saskatchewan.ca/PersonalCareHomes/Table>

By August 14, 2020 - complete the following and return the above information to the DPEBB Ministry of Health.

- 1. Seasonal Influenza Immunization Program Participation (this form);**
 - 2. Vaccine Provider Application Form;**
 - 3. Vaccine Storage and Handling Checklist Form;**
 - 4. Pharmacy Registration for Seasonal Influenza Immunization at Licensed Personal Care Homes (if applicable).**
- Email: DPEBimmunizations@health.gov.sk.ca
Note: the document must be saved to your computer before sending by email to ensure the information is retained in the document.
 - Fax: 306-798-2022
 - Post: 2nd Floor, 3475 Albert Street, Regina, SK S4S 6X6

A list of participating pharmacies for the 2020-2021 Seasonal Influenza Immunization Program will be provided to SHA, PAS and SCPP. **You can confirm your pharmacy's registration for the Program on the DPEBB, PAS or SCPP websites after September 11, 2020.** Off-site delivery of the influenza vaccination includes:

- **Congregate Living Settings** – For the purpose of publicly funded influenza vaccine administration, Congregate Living Settings are defined as for profit or not for profit public or privately owned buildings (e.g., which house residents who may have mobility, accessibility and/or cognitive challenges). They may or may not be licensed by the Government of Saskatchewan. These settings do not receive contracted or ongoing services from public health or other Athabasca Health Authority (AHA), Saskatchewan Health Authority (SHA), or First Nations Jurisdictions (FNJs) health practitioners and have no operational affiliation to the AHA, SHA, or FNJ (i.e., are not an AHA, SHA, FNJ or Affiliate facility). Examples of congregate living settings in Saskatchewan include assisted living/seniors' independent housing and group homes.
- **Licensed Personal Care Homes (PCH)** – For the purpose of publicly funded influenza administration, including high dose influenza vaccine, licensed Personal Care Homes are privately owned and operated facilities that offer accommodation, meals and supervision or assistance with personal care to people who generally do not need or do not want the level of health services provided in publicly subsidized special-care homes. It is the combination of providing both accommodation and care that makes a facility a PCH. PCH are licensed and monitored by the Ministry of Health. The list of licensed Personal Care Homes in Saskatchewan is available at <http://personalcarehomes.saskatchewan.ca/PersonalCareHomes/Table>.
- **Home Visits** - The intent of off-site home visits by community pharmacists is to provide enhanced accessibility to those patients at high-risk of influenza related complications and who may have mobility issues or cognitive deficits.

As participants, pharmacists are responsible for collaboration with other publicly funded influenza vaccine providers to ensure proper utilization of resources, which supports the success of the program. Should local public health confirm that public health (or home care) services will be delivered in the site (including home visits) under consideration, community pharmacists are **NOT** permitted to proceed with delivery of influenza vaccine in that site unless the transfer of responsibility is agreed to by public health. Delivery to congregate living settings must further be coordinated by the community pharmacy with the facility.

Off-site delivery of influenza immunization **MUST** be coordinated with local public health offices in the SHA, AHA and FNJs by **August 14, 2020**.

Public Health Office contact information is available in:
http://formulary.drugplan.ehealthsask.ca/PDFs/Appendix9-Public_Health_Office_Contact_Information.pdf

AGREEMENT TO COMPLY

In-Province Pharmacies – By submitting this information to DPEBB to register your pharmacy to participate in the Program, you agree to comply with the *Saskatchewan College of Pharmacy Professionals Guidelines Regarding Vaccine Storage, Handling and Transport*.

https://scp.in1touch.org/document/3677/REF_Vaccine_Storage_20151222.pdf

QUESTIONS

Please contact Wayne Stewart at the DPEBB if you have any questions (phone 306-787-6970; email wayne.stewart@health.gov.sk.ca).

Thank you for your assistance.

Wayne Stewart, BSc BSP
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